

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 DPW-01 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 100185

O P 181219 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1329

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

COMUSSAG PRIORITY

USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: MPOS, CB

SUBJ: ASSOCIATED PRESS QUERY ON TERMINATION OF US AIR OPERATIONS
IN CAMBODIA

1. AP HEADQUARTERS HAS ASKED ITS LOCAL CORRESPONDENT
NEELD TO QUERY US ON THE IMPORTANT OF U. S. AIR
OPERATIONS TO THE GKR. FOLLOWING ARE HIS QUESTIONS
AND OUR RESPONSES, WHICH WERE GIVEN ORALLY.

2. QUESTION: HOW INPORTANT ARE AMERICAN AIR OPERATIONS
TO THE GKR?

ANSWER: THEY ARE ESSENTIAL, AS LONG AS HANOI, USING
KHMER FORCES IT SUPPLIES, ADVISES, AND ENCADRES AND
SOME OF ITS OWN UNITS, SEEKS TO DESTROY THE GKR. THEY
CAN AND WILL BE DIMINISHED WHEN AND AS THE ENEMY
ATTACKS DIMINISH.

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QUESTION: COULD THE GKR SURVIVE IF US AIR POWER IS
NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO IT?

ANSWER: THE KAF HAS A SIGNIFICANT AND GROWING CAPABILITY,
BUT BOTH KHMER AND AMERICANS WOULD AGREE THAT THE GKR
WOULD BE IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY IF THE ENEMY WERE TO
MAINTAIN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF HOSTILITIES, AND US AIR
SUPPORT IS WITHDRAWN. THE GKR HAS LONG VULNERABLE LINES
OF COMMUNICATION TO KEEP OPEN IF IT IS TO SUPPLY THE MAJORITY OF
THE KHMER PEOPLE STILL UNDER FRIENDLY CONTROL AS LONG AS
KHMER INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE WITH THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE. FURTHER-
MORE, THE NEGATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF THE SUDDEN
WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL.
SWANK

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: MPOS, CB
To: BANGKOK
CINCPAC
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EA
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC

VIENTIANE

WASHDC

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